



Raider Review



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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Taking it to the bad guys... Staff Sgt. Michael Howell, infantryman, HHD, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., looks for suspected roadside bomb emplacers and triggermen who set them off Oct. 14 while on a foot patrol near Halabsa north of Baghdad.

1st STB awarded first campaign streamer in 4ID

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

The 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, was awarded the first campaign streamer Oct. 5 on Camp Taji for a

4th Inf. Div. unit during the division's Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 tour.

Streamers are attached to unit standards to signify campaigns or battles the unit has participated in.

"It's a true honor for me to come up here today to put on the first streamer of this campaign," said Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman,

commanding general, Multi-National Division-Baghdad. "I am very proud of how you transformed this unit during the last 28 months. What you have done is truly amazing. You are the best.

"It's the Soldiers who have earned this (campaign streamer) and there is nothing more important than (go to page 18, 1st STB) —

Heading into the 'Homestretch'

By Col. James Pasquarette
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade... I want to talk during this edition about the Homestretch.

It will be the most complex and demanding period of time of the deployment. I want each of you to know your part, the standards, and remain focused on what's important.



As I write this on Oct. 26, the unit replacing us has begun their flow into Kuwait. In fact, I met earlier this week the first officer from their brigade which has plugged into our S4 shop to oversee property accountability. This is a good sign. Property accountability is one of the more important aspects of this operation. I know the company

commanders have been working this aspect of the relief in place for many months. Organizational, left behind equipment, theater provided equipment and other categories of property must all be accounted for and either transferred to the replacing unit or redeployed with us back to Fort Hood. Know what is staying and what is going at your level – and get it ready to go.

Maintenance-wise, I want every operator to take a hard look at their piece of Army equipment. Look at it as though you are the incoming unit. They're going to be very interested in its condition given they will be employing it in combat conditions right away. I want services completed on all our equipment so that the follow on unit will not have to conduct a service until Feb. 1, 2007. Take pride in your equipment. I'm starting to look around the back of Bradleys and M1114s when I'm on patrol and talking to Soldiers. I think some of our vehicles have MRE trash from January in them. Get them policed up and ready to go. First impressions are important here – I want to make a good one.

We'll be moving out of the trailers in the next seven to ten days to open them up for the follow on unit. Work now to identify problems with your trailer. KBR should not be saddled with repairing hundreds of trailers. The temporary living area will not be as comfortable, but no complaining. It means you are on the way home soon. If you really desire to remain in a trailer, we will get you assigned to the follow on unit for another year over here!

Most importantly, I want every Soldier to transfer their knowledge and expertise on their assigned tasks and associated battlespace to the newly arriving unit. There is no way to train for the environment we are operating in right now. Several sayings we have all heard apply to this place: "only in Iraq," "you can't make this stuff up" and "I never saw anything like this at the National Training Center." Exchanging our experience, background, knowledge and TTPs to the unit replacing us is the primary means of setting them up for success and mitigating risk.

Finally, conducting a good relief in (go to page 5, stay focused)

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To contribute to the *Raider Review* contact the 1st BCT Public Affairs Office or send stories, photos and information to brent.hunt@BCT1ID4.army.mil.

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Differences between combat normal, civilian normal for 1BCT

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells
Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT

There's a difference between combat normal and civilian normal.

You've been living, breathing and fighting in a combat environment for the last year.

Your perception of a normal day has been molded by the situations you've found



yourself thrust into here in Iraq.

The things you've had to deal with puts a strain on your body, your mind and maybe your faith. It's enough to make a billy goat puke and no one's expecting you to be the same Soldier, husband, son or daughter you were a year ago. You are a disciplined, aggressive Soldier that knows the dangers of fighting and are willing to serve alongside others that feel the same way.

More than 7,214 miles away at Fort Hood, Texas, the world hasn't stood still this past year. Your kids are a year older; your spouse has had to be a single parent and the grass still needs cutting.

Friends and family are waiting for you to come back and take some well

deserved time off.

You just can't equate combat normal to civilian normalcy. The two don't compare. So, understand that it'll take some time to fall back into a normal routine. It's great.

You'll have the time to bathe everyday, cook a good meal, watch some football, drink a beer, drive a car that doesn't need a mounted machine gun (although that would be cool), wear blue jeans or wear a hat that's not made of high ballistic Kevlar, hug your kids and love your wife.

I'm proud of how well the Soldiers of 1st BCT have performed this past year. You have served with honor and have done your part in making this a better place.

There is no greater sacrifice...

Staff Sgt. Christopher O. Moudry
Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.
June 25, 1975 - Oct. 4, 2006

Spc. George R. Obourn
Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.
Feb. 25, 1986 - Oct. 4, 2006

Spc. Timothy R. Burke
Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.
Sept. 30, 1982 - Oct. 4, 2006

Pfc. Dean R. Bright
Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.
Oct. 13, 1973 - Oct. 4, 2006

Sgt. Brandon S. Asbury
Co. E, FSC, 4th Spt. Bn.
July 30, 1985 - Oct. 8, 2006

2nd Lt. Johnny K. Craver
Co. B, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
June 23, 1969 - Oct. 13, 2006

Capt. Mark C. Paine
Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR
June 26, 1974 - Oct. 15, 2006

Staff Sgt. Ronald L. Paulsen
Co. C, 414th CA Bn., 1st STB
May 13, 1953 - Oct. 17, 2006

Cpl. David M. Unger
Co. C, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
Oct. 31, 1984 - Oct. 18, 2006

Spc. Joseph C. Dumas, Jr.
Co. C, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
Jan. 18, 1981 - Oct. 18, 2006

Pfc. Russell G. Culbertson III
Co. C, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
Aug. 31, 1984 - Oct. 18, 2006

2nd Lt. Christopher E. Loudon
Co. C, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
March 25, 1983 - Oct. 18, 2006

Spc. Nathaniel A. Aguirre
HHC, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
Dec. 11, 1984 - Oct. 22, 2006

Spc. Matthew W. Creed
HHC, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
Jan. 29, 1983 - Oct. 22, 2006

Pfc. Kevin Ellenburg
Co. B, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.
Nov. 14, 1985 - Nov. 1, 2006

Raider Brigade Chaplain's Corner:

Small grains of sand can turn to pearls

By Maj. Steve Feriante
Brigade Chaplain

There once was an oyster whose story I tell who found that some sand had got into his shell.

It was only a grain, but it gave him great pain for oysters have feelings although they're so plain.

Did he berate the harsh workings of fate that had brought him to such a deplorable state?

Did he curse at the government and claim that the sea should give him protection?

"No," he said as he lay on a shell. "Since I cannot remove it I shall try to improve it."

Now the years have rolled around as the years always do and he came to his ultimate destiny, stew.

And the small grain of sand that had bothered him so was a beautiful pearl all richly aglow.

Now the tale has a moral; for isn't it grand what an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?

What couldn't we do if we'd only begin with some of the things that get under our skin?

Words of wisdom from the brigade Chaplain

Verily, thy Chaplain sayeth:

Thou shall not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

Thou shall not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

Thou shall not carry grudges, for they are the heaviest of all life's burdens.

Thou shall face each problem as it comes. Thou canst only handle one at a time anyway.

Thou shall not take problems to bed with you. For they make very poor bedfellows.

Thou shall not borrow other people's problems. They can better care for them than ye.

Thou shall not try to relive yesterday. It is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in thy life and be happy now.

Thou shall be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas

different from thy own.

Thou shall not become "bogged down" by frustration, for 90 percent of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive action.

Thou shall count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

"God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and love and sound mind." - Paul to Timothy



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Reenlisting in front of Raider heroes...

Staff Sgt. Orlando Ochoa, military police squad leader, HHC, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., reenlists in front of the 1st BCT Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 Fallen Comrades Memorial inside the Raider Tactical Operations Center at Camp Taji, Oct. 26.

Stay focused on today, home is tomorrow

——— (continued from page 2)

place is hard work, long hours and maintaining a positive attitude. The last point is most important. I expect every Soldier to think back to when we deployed into theater about 10 and a half months ago. Looking back, I can say that I was not ready for what I was about to get into. However, I personally had a fantastic RIP/TOA experience. It allowed me to operate confidently soon after we

were in charge.

I want you to take this responsibility seriously. Your reputation as a Soldier, leader and unit will be made more on how you treat your successor than you appreciate. I want you to show off what you know while also explaining the mistakes you made over the year. I admit to making my share of mistakes – and plan on ensuring my successor learns from them.

OK – stay focused on today – the here and now. Everywhere I go I hear Soldier telling me they are ready to go home. Home will be there when you get there – as long as you focus on what we are doing right here and right now. It is too complex and dangerous not to do so.

Keep up the great work – you are making a difference.

Colonel Jim Pasquarette
Raider 6



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Commo check...

Sgt. Chris Jordan, squad leader, Co. A, 1st Bn., 66th AR, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., makes a communication check with the Iron Knights battalion Nov. 1 with his radio to make sure everything is okay and all the security elements are in place during a medical operation at the Nasser Factory near Camp Taji north of Baghdad. Soldiers from Co. A were tasked with providing security for the event which was held across the street from Camp Taji. Physician assistants and medics from the 1st BCT provided medical care to more than 75 local Iraqi residents at the operation.

4-11 FA holds MedOp in Mushada

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

As the Iraqi police provided security, Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, along with an Iraqi doctor and an Iraqi nurse conducted a medical operation recently for residents of the Mushada community north of Baghdad.

During the event, more than 300 residents from the area were seen by the medical staff for a variety of ailments and were given free pharmaceuticals to help curb the type of ailment the patients were experiencing.

"This is the first Medop I've been on since I've been stationed at Camp Taji," said Pfc. Hugo Paiz, medic, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, which is attached to the 1st BCT. "A lot of what I'm seeing today is boys with skinned knees and elbows. Mostly, it's from running around and falling. All I do for them is pretty much clean up the wound, bandage it and then send



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Pfc. Hugo Paiz, medic, Btry. B, 4th Bn., 11th FA Regt., attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., bandages a young Iraqi boys head recently at a medical operation held in Mushada.

them on their way."

Not only did Paiz take care of skinned knees and elbows, he was part of a team of medics and physicians that helped stabilize a young Iraqi girl who was ran over by a truck just right up the road from the operation.

The young girl suffered a broken leg and multiple contusions when a truck struck a roadside bomb and steered out of control hitting her. Locals rushed her to the medical operation where she was stabilized and medically evacuated to Baghdad for further treatment.

The parents of the girl were notified their daughter had been hurt and where she was taken after she was medically evacuated.

Many were grateful the medical operation was going on so close to the accident.

"I'm so glad the doctors were close when that girl got hurt," said a local Mushada woman at the operation. "They really did save her

life. These medical operations are a blessing.

"I heard about the operation yesterday, so I brought all my kids in today," she added. "This is really great, and I appreciate it when the American doctors come and take a look at my kids. They even gave us some free medicine."

The 1st BCT has been conducting these types of medical operations since they set foot in Iraq ten months ago. Many believe they are starting to make a real difference in the communities where they are held.

"I believe these operations are helping the communities in this area," said Capt. Lee Howard, team chief, Team 5, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Bn., which is attached to the 1st BCT. "At least that is the feedback I'm getting from the sheiks. Most (Iraqis) have very high expectations from American medics and doctors. What a lot of people are doing is waiting for the Americans to come to their community."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Pvt. Tramaine Lyons, medic, Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., checks the heartbeat of an Iraqi baby recently at a medical exercise held in Mushada. The medics saw more than 300 people.

Rashidiya school gets supplies, renovations for new school year

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Students from the Sheik Dhari Secondary School in Rashidiya lined up to receive school supplies Oct. 5 from the Soldiers of Team 4, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

With students, teachers, community members and Iraqi police officers helping, Team 4 passed out 40 dozen notebooks, water coolers, filters, chalk, erasers and pens to the school as they prepare for an influx of returning students.

"This mission today is part of an ongoing project to renovate the



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Staff Sgt. Walter Laracueta, team sergeant, Team 4, Co. C, 414th CA Bn., which is attached to the 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., passes out notebooks Oct. 5 to local school children during a school supply mission at the Sheik Dhari School in Rashidiya.

school," said Staff Sgt. Walter Laracueta, team sergeant for Team 4. "We purchased the supplies locally to help improve the economy."

Attendance at the school is going back up to previous levels as the security situation improves and people (go to page 15, civil)

Saab al Bour re-opens primary school

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

The Saab al Bour Primary School opened its doors Sept. 30 with Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers from the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is attached to the 1st Special Troops Battalion,

1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, on hand to dish out school supplies to the students starting the new school year.

The primary school north of Baghdad received a \$144,000 refurbishment which began at the end of last school year and was completed just in time for the new school year.

"We had a school opening today and this is

one of eight schools we are refurbishing in this city," said Capt. Holly Hanson, team leader for CA Team 3, Company C, 414th CA Bn. "We brought them two school kits as a gift for their school opening. The school is now complete with its refurbishment.

"It's good to know that we are helping with education here in Iraq," added Hanson. "The community is happy we are

helping with the schools."

During the school renovation, construction workers repaired all the school's interior walls, bathrooms and administration rooms. In addition, all the desks were either repaired or replaced and each classroom now comes equipped with a new chalkboard for the teachers to use.

The primary school has (go to page 15, school)

CDR visits Regulars in Mahmudiya

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

The “Regulars, by God” of Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, which are currently attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, welcomed Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Div., during a visit Oct. 30 in Mahmudiya.

The Regulars, normally assigned to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., have spent most of this Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment attached to different units conducting missions south and west of the Iraqi capital.

Currently, Co. B is operating out of Forward Operating Base Mahmudiya securing routes in the region preventing the implantation of roadside bombs. Over the last year, Co. B has been assigned at Camp Stryker, the Abu Ghraib Internment Facility and FOB Falcon.

“We’ve been out here for about a month securing these routes,” said Pfc. Garrett Bane, an infantryman with the company. “It’s not bad out here. For as much stuff as we’ve done, this is cool.”

Bane sat down with Pasquarette to talk about the future of the brigade and the redeployment plans for the Soldiers. This is the first time Bane had a chance to meet his brigade commander.

“It’s pretty neat that he’s out here,” he said. “I’ve never seen him during a visit before, but it’s good for the Soldiers morale that a colonel



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., chats with Soldiers Oct. 30 from Company B, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., which is currently attached to the 10th Mtn. Div., about major upcoming events pertaining to the upcoming redeployment and answering their questions. Co. B is operating in the Mahmudiyah region near Baghdad.

comes out to see the guys.”

While the current missions may not be as up-tempo as their previous ones, the Soldiers remain upbeat and proud of the work they accomplished during the deployment.

“Of all the places we’ve been, I liked Abu Ghraib. The chow was the best and everything was close,” said Sgt. Dustin Wright, squad leader, 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Co. B. “We’ve done raids, air assaults and cache exploitations over the year. On our best mission, we found ten caches in one day on the Tigris River. One of them included 11 500 lb. bombs.”

The success of the company is par for the course in their long and storied history of the unit. The 22nd Inf. Regt., was originally constituted by Congress in 1812 with 17 other regiments of Infantry. The battalion has fought in almost every major U.S. conflict to date.

“We’ve been here for about five weeks now,” said Capt. Matthew Weber, commander of the Infantry company. “For all of about three or four weeks over the last 11 months, we’ve been away from the rest of the brigade. We have primarily conducted combat patrols, air assaults, route security and found about 60 weapons caches.”

Weber is proud of the work his unit of approximately 130 Soldiers has done this year.

“It feels good to be trusted with so much autonomy, but at times you wish you were with your parent battalion and other Soldiers you trained with,” he said. “But we have a mission to do and we offer combat power and system capabilities other units don’t have. The Soldiers have done an outstanding job in their multitude of tasks in multiple chains of commands.”

New surgical, pregnancy wing gives new hope at Tarmiya Clinic

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

On a typical day at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic, patients and clinic workers witnessed the a typical grand opening Oct. 10 of a new surgical and pregnancy wing hosted by Ministry of Health personnel, local council members and Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The \$400,000 new wing features operating rooms, labor and delivery facilities with recovery rooms for patients.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, Dr. Ali Ibrahim, district clinic manager for the Ministry of Health, gave Maj. Herb Joliat, civil affairs officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st BCT, a tour of the new wing of the clinic.

Ibrahim is the medical official in charge of several clinics in the northern Baghdad region to include Saab al Bour, Mushada, Taji, al Tapi and others. He serves more than a million people.

"The job ran a little over the projected end date because of conditions on the site that were outside of his initial scope that he needed to address for quality assurance," said Joliat. "Despite that, he still brought in his touches with his own photos and plastic plants. It was his building, his work in his town."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Maj. Herb Joliat, brigade civil affairs officer, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., shakes the hand of Hameed Halhelal, contractor in charge of the Tarmiya Medical Clinic's new surgical and pregnancy wing Oct. 10 during its grand opening north of Baghdad.

Hameed Halhelal, local contractor in charge of the project, enjoyed the project and the opportunity to help the people of Tarmiya.

This is my first project here in Tarmiya and a very good thing for the people, he said. "This clinic is a great project for people needing surgery and for pregnant women and their children."

Currently the clinic serves approximately 140,000 people in the greater Tarmiya area.

Ibrahim coordinated the movement of additional personnel to work in the new clinic wing. He also noted he receives regular assistance from local Iraqi Security Forces as he needs it.

"We moved our staff around and also brought in a more experienced staff from Baghdad to work in the

clinic," he said. "Many people have told me the new clinic is beautiful. Everything that we do here is for the benefit of the people's well being."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Dr. Ali Ibrahim, regional medical director, cuts the ribbon Oct. 10 to officially open a new surgical and pregnancy wing at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic north of Baghdad. The project was completed with the help of regional council members and the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.'s Civil Affairs Soldiers.

Raider Brigade saving Saab al Bour

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

As international headlines report sectarian violence across Baghdad and the cities in the surrounding region, Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers at Camp Taji are working together to reestablish a level of security allowing residents to return to Saab al Bour.

During Ramadan, terrorist cells and rival Shia and Sunni factions pushed the level of violence to unprecedented levels forcing local residents to flee to nearby Khadimiya and other areas.

Soldiers from the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, led the way in responding by aggressively conducting missions against suspected terrorists with mounted and dismounted patrols and counter-fire against mortar attacks.

The Joint Coordination Center, located at the Saab al Bour Police Station, houses 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. Soldiers, Iraqi army soldiers and Iraqi police officers. Formerly part of a local government



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Adam Moore

Soldiers from the 463rd MP Co., which is attached to the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stand guard at the Saab al Bour Police Station. Soldiers from the 1st BCT have stepped up patrols to stop sectarian violence.

complex, the location now is the central command and control location for the coordination and mission execution in the greater Saab al Bour region.

“The numbers of attacks have decreased. This is my third time out here, and it’s been pretty quiet,” said Capt. Matt Cooper, assistant intelligence officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

Maj. Anthony Nichols, senior Military Transition Team advisor, 1st Tank Battalion, 2nd Tank Bde, 9th IA Div., makes the JCC a daily stop between his patrols with his soldiers to compare notes.

“We captured 18 bad guys over the last ten days,” he said. “I think we are having a large amount

of success with keeping them from consolidating and establishing themselves. The most effective strategy is to go where they think you won’t go.”

As violence within Saab al Bour grew, health care providers departed leaving residents with few options outside of traveling long distances for health care. The 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. responded by establishing a clinic inside the JCC for Soldiers, Iraqi Security Forces and local nationals needing emergency assistance.

“We’ve treated about 35 local nationals for trauma injuries here,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Rushworth, aid station non-commissioned officer, HHT. “Anything life threatening means we call a medevac

(medical evacuation) or if they are stabilized the Iraqi police takes them to Khadimiya. The people know that we are here to help them when they get injured. Sometimes when the IPs go into town to respond to an incident, they bring the people here.”

As violence drops off in the city, the local clinics are reopening and Rushworth and his staff are seeing fewer patients.

“We had eight cases the other day, but that was an exception more than a normal day.”

MND-B dominance over airspace helps keep the number of attacks to a minimum.

Fire Support Teams at a local observation point in the area coordinating with (go to page 14, Saab) —

Raiders conduct another medical operation just outside Mushada

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

As the Iraqi army and Iraqi police provided security, the Raiders of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, conducted another medical operation at the al Ardh al Taiyba Primary and Secondary School Oct. 30 for residents of a remote community just outside Mushada north of Baghdad.

Two physician assistants and medics from the 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment and the 4th Support Bn., treated approximately 75 men, women and children for a number of physical ailments they have been suffering from lately.

“We are conducting a medop to find out the basic medical needs of the community,” said Capt. Bill LeFever, team leader, Team 1, Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Bn., which is attached to the Special Troops Bn., 1st BCT. “We do these types of operations to show the people that we care about their welfare and to show we are here to help. Each of the five civil affairs teams in the battalion conducts one or two of these a month in our area of operations.”

Patients were also handed out free pharmaceuticals to help ease the physical discomfort they were feeling. The pharmaceuticals were bought from a local pharmacy with money from the Commander’s Emergency



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Spc. Katin Boesch, medic, Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., checks the blood pressure of an Iraqi man Oct. 30 at a medical operation held at the al Ardh al Taiyba Primary and Secondary School just outside Mushada north of Baghdad.

Response Program funds.

“We use Iraqi pharmaceuticals to help stimulate the economy and put an Iraqi face on the operation,” said Sgt. Tony Prince, team sergeant, Co. C, 414th CA Bn. “The first thing they (Iraqis) see when they come to these operations is an Iraqi policemen or soldier. This shows them the government of Iraq is working with the American Army to help better their community.”

Most of the ailments seen at the operation were sore throats, colds and sore muscles due to the weather change in recent weeks. Although most could be helped with the aid of pharmaceuticals, some patients required treatment plans involving

blood work and X-rays. For these patients, physician assistants referred them to a hospital where a long term treatment plan could be started and monitored by an Iraqi doctor.

One local man felt comforted he now knows what he needs to do to help his own physical well-being.

“I have been having a problem with my health and the doctor told me here I needed to go to Baghdad and get a Cat scan, because I might have a gallstone problem,” said Ali, a local man at the operation. “I didn’t know what was wrong with me before the doctor told me to go get some tests. Now I fell better, because at least I know what my problem might be and what I need to do to get it fixed.”

Iraqis graduate from SF boot camp

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Iraqi soldiers from 1st Platoon, 5th Special Troops Company, 9th Iraqi Army Division, graduated from the Macedonian-led basic combat training course recently on Camp Taji.

The course was designed by the Macedonian Special Forces Regiment (Task Force Wolf), which is attached to 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, to supplement the training the soldiers received in basic training and allow them to better execute their daily missions alongside the Macedonians.

“For more than 16 days we assisted the Macedonians in providing the Iraqi soldiers with additional combat training to include marksmanship training, two ranges, a shoot house, structure clearing procedures and first aid,” said Sgt. 1st Class Russell Coughenour, non-commissioned officer in charge, Team “Tsunami,” 3rd Bde, 9th IA Div. Military Transition Team. “We also focused on basic discipline and non-commissioned officer development during the training.”

Six MiTT members and 28 Macedonian SF soldiers trained the platoon of 52 Iraqi soldiers from start to finish. The platoon will return to their area of operations.

“It was fabulous,” said Coughenour. “They were a refined crew by the time we were done. They’re just a super bunch of guys.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Iraqi soldiers from the 5th STC, 9th IA Div., train with the Macedonian Special Forces Regiment on the Iraqi side of Camp Taji. An interpreter assists the Macedonians in training the Iraqis on tactical formations and movements.

The training came to fruition after the Macedonian SF Regt. conducted an assessment of the Iraqi forces during some initial missions.

“Our job is to assist and advise the Iraqis,” said Capt. Zoran Ivanov, contingent commander, Macedonian SF Regt. “The training will allow them to be more confident and proficient in their training.”

The Iraqis seemed to appreciate the additional instruction.

“The training was tough, but good,” said Pvt. Ali Ghoufroy, an infantryman with 5th STC, in his second year of service in the new Iraqi Army. “I learned some new skills and they taught us things like self-confidence, duty, loyalty, respect and discipline.”

These soldiers are the first to go through the training, but not the last. Ivanov noted after these soldiers, two more cycles are scheduled to proceed through the course. After

these classes, 150 Iraqi soldiers will have the additional training. By the time the next group of Macedonians comes to Iraq, they should have the remaining Iraqi soldiers in the company to run through the basic combat training before moving them onto the next block of instruction: advanced combat training.

“I feel good that I graduated from this course and I hope I will be able to fight the terrorists,” said Spc. Adel Kuder, infantryman, 5th STC. “I want my nation to be at peace.”

Ivanov recognized the almost instant changes in the soldiers after they completed the training.

“They will go back to their units and begin going on missions after this,” he said. “The soldiers displayed lots of effort. They want to learn. At the end of the training the difference was obvious. The ‘Scorpions’ of 5th Special Troops Company are completely different soldiers.”

Iraqi medics training to save lives

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Iraqi soldiers from the 1st Mechanized Battalion, 2nd Tank Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, continued their combat medic training recently with the assistance of the 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div., on Camp Taji.

Soldiers from the 1st Mech. Bn. Military Transition Team conducted a battlefield training event for the Iraqi medics while using mechanized ambulance vehicles. These training operations prepare Iraqi soldiers to provide medical aid to wounded Iraqi soldiers and civilians injured while fighting against terrorist forces.

"This is the culmination of four months of training and it's a way for us to gauge their (IA medics) progress," said Capt. Jeffrey Witherspoon, advisor, Headquarters Support Company, 1st Mech. Bn. "We started them from scratch in the classroom with hands-on lessons through translated lesson plans."

The Iraqi medics train while continuing their mission rotations to include working at their battalion



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Robert Griffin, battalion medical advisor, 1st Mech. Bn., 2nd Tank Bde., 9th IA Div. MiTT, watches Warrant Officer Abid Ali, medic, 1st Mech. Bn., treat a fellow soldier during a training exercise to help stabilize battlefield wounded soldiers before loading them into a mechanized ambulance vehicle.

aid station, manning checkpoints in their area of operations and shifts at the Taji Medical Clinic.

Sgt. Robert Griffin, battalion medical advisor, 1st Mech. Bn. MiTT, works with the medics on a daily basis.

"The medics just completed their drivers training on their track vehicles this week," he said. "This training simulates a combat patrol where the medic must treat wounded soldiers on the scene. They learn how to

deal with a situation requiring initial stabilization before moving them."

During the mission, the medics treat their fellow soldiers with prefabricated wounds and must respond accordingly while Griffin makes on the spot corrections with the help of an interpreter.

"I train 16 medics right now. There is approximately one Iraqi medic per 40 to 50 soldiers," said Griffin. "These guys have really stepped up as platoon

leaders. I try to put as much work and responsibility on them as I can so that eventually they can run their own sections."

The Iraqi medics say they are motivated and enjoy the training. Their medical supplies are provided by the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

"I've been in the (Iraqi) army for two months. Before this, I was a doctor for six years," said Warrant Officer Abid Ali, medic, 1st Mech Bn. "This training is very good and will help us when we go out on the battlefield. It is tougher than I expected."

Witherspoon sees the medics making steady progress in their training and eventually sees them serving as instructors for other medics while helping to save lives on the battlefield.

Their training also takes them into the community to work alongside Coalition Forces during the Community Health Outreach Program operations.

"I love this job, and I try to do my best," said Pvt. Fanan Hussein, medic, 1st Mech Bn. "When I go out and help the people, they tell us how much they appreciate us and what we are doing for them. I enjoy being a medic."

Co. A works out SARSS upgrade

By Staff Sgt. Brian Denning
Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn.

Soldiers from Company A, 4th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, scrambled to process parts and supplies to Soldiers deployed north of Baghdad after the Standard Army Retail Supply System went down Army wide during a preplanned upgrade Oct. 6 through Oct. 11.

The SARSS is used to process parts and supplies needed to maintain equipment throughout the Army.

During that time, Soldiers from the Supply Support Activity continued to receive new supplies but



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jana Fajardo

Pfc. Gabriela Quijascastro, Co. A, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., processes parts labels in the SSA Warehouse to help ease the burden of the recent build up of received parts and equipment.

could not issue them out because the hub computer system at Fort Lee, Va., held the key to where those supplies went.

“It was frustrating at first to see all the supplies and equipment backing up,” said Staff Sgt. Daniel Deiler, automated logistics specialist. “After a while, we just realized that we were going to have to keep

everything as organized as possible until the system came back up and we could start issuing parts and supplies to the units again.”

The parts and supplies waiting to be processed by the SSA included engine packs for Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles and various parts maneuver units need throughout the 1st BCT

area of operations in order to keep their vehicles running while on patrol outside Camp Taji.

“We knew as soon as the SARSS went back up we were going to be under a lot of pressure to get everything processed and issued in as short a time as possible,” said Chief Warrant Officer Shealeana Stewart, supply technician. “We had six days worth of supplies and parts backed up in our warehouses and storage yard.”

By Oct. 11 with almost a weeks worth of supplies piled up, the SARSS was finally up and running. A combined effort of every platoon in the company worked day and night for 48 hours to get the warehouse parts and supplies processed and out to where they belonged.

Saab al Bour victim of sectarian violence

(continued from page 10)
ground patrols providing reconnaissance receive air support from AH-64D Longbow Apache attack helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles, giving the 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. the opportunity to immediately react and retaliate against mortar fire.

“Before we started, there were a lot more mortar attacks,” said Sgt. Bernard Walla, fire support team chief, Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. “We call fire support

immediately after a mortar attack. Once we receive clearance, we are putting rounds downrange.”

Recently, a patrol working with the fire support team pursued three fleeing suspected terrorists after they received counter-fire from the observation point. An Apache spotted the men near the mortar site and reported their location to the patrol. After firing on the patrol, one of the suspected terrorists was killed and two were taken into custody.

During prisoner processing, the

fingerprints of one of the men were matched to a weapons cache in Fallujah, said 1st Lt. Jeff Bryan, mortar fire platoon leader, Trp. B.

“It’s getting better,” he said. “That was a very good example of the fire support teams working together.”

“It’s hot out here sometimes, but it’s not too tough working out here,” said Pfc. Francisco Camacho, a forward observer with HHT. “We hear mortars and gunfire periodically, but lately this past week it has been getting better.”

Civil Affairs gives out notebooks, supplies

—(continued from page 7) are returning to the area, said Nama Harbi, headmaster of the Sheik Dhari Secondary School.

“Security has been an issue in the past, but things are getting better,” he said. “The police have started to come around more and talk to us about our issues.”

The school focuses on Arabic, English, Kurdish, Social Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Science and Mathematics. Harbi said he eventually seeks to add higher-

level math classes and even Physics to the curriculum. This is his fourth year working at the school.

The school is one of five school projects Team 4 is currently working on in their area of operation, which is everything east of the Tigris River. Their other projects include a water treatment plant, an electrical sub-station and government office buildings. They began their operations with 1st BCT shortly after arriving in April.

Since the 414th CA Bn. started

conducting missions, they have noticed things slowly improving.

“The government is a lot more proactive and doing more and more to help the people,” said Sgt. Carlos Matos, non-commissioned officer for Team 4. “There are a few projects that are completely Iraqi-run and we have no part in. That’s a sign to me that things are more secure. I have personally seen them working together and having more meetings providing essential services for the people.”

School is \$144,000 refurbishing project

—(continued from page 7) approximately 1,000 students attending with two sets of classes held daily for boys and girls. The boys go to school in the morning while the girls attend school in the afternoon.

“I am glad the Americans are here helping us,” said Malga Hamid, assistant headmaster at the Saab al Bour Primary School. “Without them (U.S. Soldiers), our community would not be where it is today. It feels good knowing that there is someone that wants to help.”

Not only are the adults excited about the renovated school opening, so are the students who are starting the new school year.

“I’m very excited to go back to school,” said a young Iraqi student who



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Elliott

Soldiers from the 414th CA Bn., attached to the 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., hand out school supplies Sept. 30 at the Saab al Bour Primary School. The school underwent a \$144,000 refurbishment repairing all the interior walls, bathrooms and administration offices. In addition, all the desks were either repaired or replaced and each classroom now comes with a chalkboard.

insisted on arm wrestling each and every American

Soldier at the schools grand opening. “I’ve been waiting

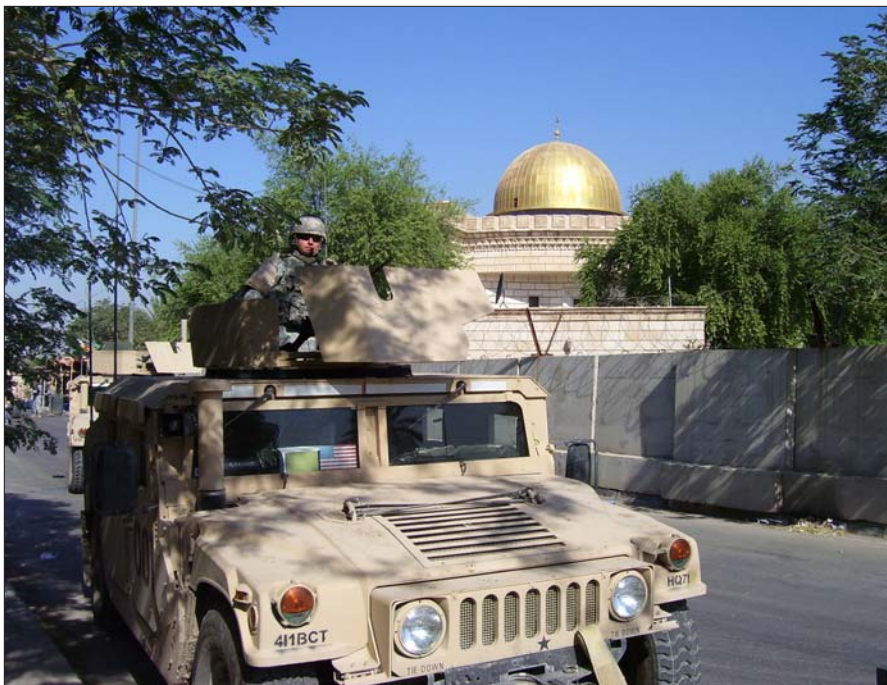
for this (the schools opening) all summer long.”

Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Army photo by Capt. John Shermer

Cpl. Michael Murray, 1st STB, conducts a foot patrol recently in the Sheik Sa'ad Village.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Elliott

Ready to roll... Spc. Tommy Lee Kiger, gunner for the brigade Civil Affairs team, HHD, 1st BCT, gets ready to roll out into Baghdad on a mission.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Pfc. Nicole Manley, medic, Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., gets ready to hand out medicine Oct. 12 at a medical operation held in Tal Tassa.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Kody Cross, medic, Co. B, 1st Bn., 66th AR, received an Army Commendation Medal with V-device and a Purple Heart from Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st BCT, Oct. 18 at the brigade's monthly awards ceremony.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 66th AR, patrol Route Coyotes to ensure the safety of Tarmiya residents.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Cpl. Abram Allen, scout, Co. C, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., looks through a Long Range Advanced Scouting Surveillance Sight Oct. 14 for suspected terrorists at Checkpoint 3R.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Staff Sgt. Stephen McDonald, battle NCO, HHB, 4th Bn., 11th FA Regt., monitors the Raven in Mushada during a medical operation.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Elliott

Sgt. Leonor Escalante, medic, HHC, 1st STB, hangs out with school children from Rashidiya during a school supply drop.

Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Rooting out terrorism... Pfc. Joshua Glasser, an infantryman from Omaha, Neb., HHD, 1st BCT, clears a remote area Oct. 14 of suspected terrorists and roadside bombs near Halabsa on a foot patrol north of Baghdad.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Spc. Mark Medina, 1st STB, reenlists Oct. 9 for a bonus and duty station of choice.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

Spc. Joshua Honigberg, scout, Trp. B, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., sits in the gunner's hatch while on patrol.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Members of Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells personal security detachment prep for a long day.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Elliott

Pfc. Sam Dodge with HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR, pauses a moment to take a picture in sector while out on patrol.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Second Lt. Katherine Fenton, officer in charge, battalion intelligence, HHC, 4th Spt. Bn., plays violin at the monthly prayer breakfast held at the Command Sgt. Maj. Cooke Dining Facility on Camp Taji.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th Spt. Bn.

Spc. Ashley Wollan, medic, Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., instructs an Iraqi army soldier how the front desk is run at the Cobra Clinic on Camp Taji. She is also showing him how Americans hitchhike when they run out of gas in the middle of nowhere.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt

Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commanding general, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, presents the 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., the first campaign streamer awarded to a 4th Inf. Div. unit Oct. 5 for Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 on Camp Taji. Lt. Col. John Cross, commander, 1st STB, 1st BCT, (left) helped attach the campaign streamer to the unit's standard.

1st STB Soldiers earn battalion's first streamer since formation in Dec. 2004

—(continued from page 1) the Soldier,” Thurman added. “This is a tough warfighting outfit, and I would put this brigade and this battalion anywhere because I know you will get the job done.”

The 4th Inf. Div. has been operating in a very volatile portion of Iraq to include the capital of the country and its surrounding

area for the past ten months.

The 1st STB is stationed north of Baghdad consisting of a brigade headquarters detachment, signal company, military intelligence company, support platoons, a military police platoon and a civil affairs company with teams spread out throughout the brigade.

The 1st STB has only been in existence since Dec. 15, 2004, when the Army-wide transition to “modular” divisions took place.

This is the first Iraq campaign streamer attached to any unit's standard in the division during this tour and it's the first one attached to the battalion's standard.

“I've been in the military

25 years and I've never been in a unit that has gotten one of these,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Seaman, 1st STB. “This is something you (1st STB Soldiers) have earned, a campaign streamer, while you have been assigned to this unit. All of us will leave this unit someday, but the streamer is something you have earned for this unit.”